

James Van Campen Farm (Miller Farm)  
West side Old Mine Road  
Millbrook Vicinity  
Pahaquarry Township  
Warren County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-825

HABS  
NJ,  
21 MILBROOK,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JAMES VAN CAMPEN FARM  
(Miller Farm)

HABS NO. NJ - 825

Location: West side Old Mine Road, approx. 2.5 miles south of  
Bushkill, Pa., Millbrook vicinity, Pahaquarry Township,  
Warren County, New Jersey.

USGS Bushkill Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates: 18.4995540. 4544830

Present owner: United States Government

Present Use: Residence

Significance: Although the foundation dates from 1768, the present frame  
structure replaced the original superstructure during the  
first half of the nineteenth century. The building is  
particularly significant for its association with the Van  
Campen family.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: This house was probably built ca. 1812  
(Souder, addenda, p. 11; Walters) on foundations of a 1768 house.
2. Architect: not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Reference is to the Records  
Rooms of the County Clerk and Surrogate of Warren County, unless  
otherwise noted.

1776 Deed: 26 November 1776 Recorded 30 July 1821  
Book R-2, page 517 Sussex County  
Colonel Abraham Van Campen (d. 1767), of Walpack Township,  
to  
Abraham Van Campen (1736-1811), of Walpack Township,  
Consideration: "for and in consideration of the  
natural love and affection that he hath for his  
said son Abraham Van Campen," and 5 shillings  
Acreage: (1) 118 (2) 30 (3) "about 200 acres"  
Grant: (1) near Colonel Van Campen's house (2) island  
(3) "Another or the House lott"; being "part or  
one half of a larger tract of land purchased by  
the said Abraham Van Campen [Colonel] Esq from  
John Van Horn & others by deed of Indenture  
bearing date the eighth day of March 1732"

(Burlington, Deeds Book R, page 87); for additional background see report for the Colonel Abraham Van Campen House, HABS No. NJ - 430; if the grantee should leave no children, then the premises were to descend to the grantor's surviving children.

- 1811 Will Book A, Page 223 Sussex County  
Abraham Van Campen (1736-1811)  
Bequests: "unto my beloved wife Elizabeth Van Campen ...the house where I now live in, together with the use of all my household goods and furniture....during her widowhood"; upon the death of Elizabeth, household furniture to be divided between sons Abraham and James; "The house where I now live in I give and devise unto my beloved son James...."
- 1826 Will of James Van Campen not located
- 1834 Deed: 19 April 1834 Recorded 16 Feb. 1838  
Book 16, page 23  
Henry Decker, and Mary, ux., and Elijah Van Campen,  
to  
Abraham Van Campen, Jr. (son of James Van Campen)  
Consideration: \$10.00  
Acreage: (1) 13 (2) 110 1/2 (3) 25 (4) 50 3/4 (5) 15
- 1835 Deed: 19 April 1834 Recorded 16 February 1838  
Book 16, page 23  
Abraham Van Campen, Jr. (son of James Van Campen) and  
Mary, ux, and Elijah Van Campen,  
to  
Henry S. Decker  
Consideration: \$10.00  
Acreage: (1) 114 (2) 250  
Grant: (relationship to pertinent tracts is unclear)
- 1839 Deed: 1 April 1839 Recorded 14 Dec. 1839  
Book 18, page 32  
Cecilia Van Campen, widow of James Van Campen, deceased,  
Abraham Van Campen, Jr. (son of James) and Mary, ux., and  
Moses B. Van Campen, of Pahaquarry Township,  
to  
Lewis Barry and Peter Kester, of Hamilton Township, Monroe  
County, Pennsylvania,  
Consideration: \$10,200.  
Acreage: (1) 13 (2) 100 1/2 (3) 25 (4) 50 3/4  
Grant: four tracts owned by the grantors and Sally Ar  
Campen, Belinda Van Campen and Henry Van Campen,

3 heirs of James, under age; described in a deed from Henry Decker et ux., and Elijah Van Campen, to Abraham Van Campen, 1834; Abraham, Jr. owns  $\frac{1}{2}$  part; Moses B.  $\frac{1}{8}$ , the 3 minors  $\frac{3}{8}$ , Cecilia, dower right

- 1840      Deed: 7 April 1840      Recorded 5 June 1840  
Book 18, page 399  
Henry Van Campen, of Pahaquarry Township,  
to  
Lewis Bary, of Pahaquarry Township, and Peter Kester of  
Hamilton Township, Pennsylvania  
Consideration: \$650.  
Acreage: same as above  
Grant: one eighth of four lots
- 1845      Deed: 9 August 1845      Recorded 10 Sept. 1845  
Book 25, page 282  
Mark Compton and Sally Ann Van Campen Compton, of Luzerne  
County, Pennsylvania,  
to  
Peter Kester and Lewis Bary, of Pahaquarry Township,  
Consideration: \$300.67  
Acreage: same as above  
Grant: same conveyed by Cecilia Van Campen et als.  
to Peter Kester and Lewis Bary, 1839.
- 1847      Deed: 19 October 1847      Recorded 9 Nov. 1847  
Book 28, page 336  
Belinda Van Campen, of Falls Township, Wyoming County,  
Pennsylvania,  
to  
Ferdinand Kester, Administrator of Peter Kester, deceased,  
of Hamilton Township,  
Consideration: \$366.69  
Acreage: same as above  
Grant: presumably her share of the above.
- 1849      Deed: 5 June 1849      Recorded 8 Sept. 1849  
Book 30, page 620  
Cecilia Van Campen, Moses B. Van Campen and Eliza, Henry  
Van Campen, Belinda Van Campen, Mark Compton and Sally Ann  
Van Campen Compton, of Wyoming County, Pennsylvania,  
to  
Ferdinand Kester, of Monroe County, Pa.,  
Consideration: \$100.  
Acreage: 15  
Grant: all the undivided half and dower right of the  
lot; known as Share 4, lot 5, in Partition Deed  
(Vol. I, p. 162); described in deed from Moses

Van Campen to Abraham Van Campen, Jr., "bearing even date herewith" (unlocated); reserving corn planted on premises.

- 1850 Deed: 26 November 1850 Recorded 29 Nov. 1850  
Book 33, page 238  
Moses Van Campen and Elizabeth, ux., and Abraham Van Campen, Jr. and Mary, ux., of Pahaquarry Township, to  
Ferdinand Kester,  
Consideration: \$230.  
Acreage: 15  
Grant: lot 5, share 4; the moiety of lot described to said Abraham Van Campen, Jr., Susannah Rosenkrans, Elijah Van Campen, Mary Decker, heirs of James Van Campen, and by sundry conveyances vested in Moses.
- 1852 Deed: Recorded 30 Oct. 1852  
Book 36, page 280  
Aaron Bartow, Andrew Ribble, and Simeon Cooke, Commissioners appointed by the Orphans Court to partition the real estate of which Peter Kester died seized, to  
Charles F. Kinney  
Consideration: \$5000.  
Acreage: (1) 65 51/100 (2) 16 56/100 (3) 25 9/100 (4) 110  
Grant: premises offered for sale, 12 Aug. 1852, "at the Mansion house on the premises of said deceased in said county"; premises were "the farm and real estate whereon Charles F. Kinney now resides"; reference to advertisement in newspapers.
- 1852 Deed: 30 October 1852 Recorded 30 Oct. 1852  
Book 36, page 283  
Ferdinand Kester, of Monroe County, Pa., to  
Charles F. Kinney, of Pahaquarry Township  
Consideration: \$1.00  
Acreage: (1) 64 51/100 (2) 16 56/100 (3) 25 9/100 (4) 12 (5) 110 1/2  
Grant: same as Bartow et als. conveyed to Kinney, 1852.
- 1852 Deed: 30 October 1852 Recorded 30 Oct. 1852  
Book 36, page 386  
Barbara Kester, widow of Peter Kester, to

Charles F. Kinney

Acreage: (1) 13 (2) 110  $\frac{1}{2}$  (3) 25 (4) 50  $\frac{3}{4}$  (5) 15

Grant: release of dower right.

1866

Deed: 29 March 1866

Book 68, page 59

Charles F. Kinney, and Salome, of Pahaquarry Township,  
to

Henry Burk, of Walpack Township,

Consideration: \$10,740.

Acreage: (1) 105  $\frac{89}{100}$ \* (2) 116 (3) Hardwick, 24

1896

Deed: 1896

Recorded 5 March 1896

Book 156, page 570

William Burke, and Hulda, ux., of Pahaquarry Township,  
to

Allen R. Shay, of Newton, New Jersey

Consideration: \$500.

Acreage: 3 lots (1)\*

1896

Deed: 30 March 1896

Recorded 14 Feb. 1898

Book 162, page 84

Allen R. Shay and Cora, ux., of Newton,  
to

John Lamb of Portland, Pa., and Benjamin B. Van Campen and  
Theron Van Campen of Pahaquarry Township

Consideration: \$1200., and assumption of certain  
mortgages (principal \$4800).

Acreage: 2 lots, (1) 105  $\frac{87}{100}$  (2)

Grant: (1) and (2) being "the first two tracts

described in a deed from Charles F. Kinney to

Henry Burke, 1867, Book 68, page 59. Mortgages

held by Emma Westbrook, Trustee of Henry D., Emma

M., and Hilda J. Shay, children of Allen R. Shay.

1918

Deed: 9 March 1918

Recorded 12 March 1918

Book 209, page 646, Document 13985

Theron Van Campen and Rose T., ux., of Pahaquarry Township  
to

Allen R. Shay of Newton, New Jersey

Consideration: \$50.

Acreage: 105  $\frac{37}{100}$

Grant: reference to 1896 Deed, Shay to John Lamb et

als. Mortgage (principal \$2200) held by Henry D

Shay.

1920

Deed: 12 April 1920

Recorded 20 April 1920

Book 217, page 464, Document 18718

Allen R. Shay and Cora Shimer Shay, of Newton, N.J.  
to

William and Fannie Lowick, of Hardwick  
Consideration: \$14,000.  
Acreage: 105 87/100  
Grant: same conveyed to Shay by Theron Van Campen et  
als., 1918; Grantee assumes mortgage held by  
Henry D. Shay (\$1,000). (see Book 66, page 116,  
Theron Van Campen?).

1926 Deed: 14 December 1926 Recorded 28 Feb. 1927  
Book 244, page 467, Document 19168  
William Lowick, and Fannie, of Hardwick,  
to  
Poxono Realty Company  
Consideration: \$1.00  
Acreage: 105 87/100  
Grant: same conveyed to Lowicks by Allen R. Shay,  
1920.

1928 Deed: 26 March 1928 Recorded 18 April 1928  
Book 251, page 220, Document 23491  
Levi C. Mackey, Sheriff of Warren County,  
to  
William Lowick et als.  
Consideration: \$400.  
Acreage: 105 87/100  
Grant: 6 Feb. 1928, Writ of Fieri Facias, issued by  
Court of Chancery, in suit: William and Fannie  
Lowick, complainants, and Poxono Realty Company  
and George E. Jenkins, defendants; re mortgaged  
premises (14 Dec. 1926); sale authorized,  
advertised in Warren Journal and Blairstown  
Press.

1942 Deed: 27 March 1942 Recorded 28 Mar. 1942  
Book 302, page 345, Document 61309  
Fannie Lowick, Widow, of Pahaquarry Township,  
to  
Edgar H. Miller and Jonathan E. Miller, Cranford, N.J.  
Consideration: \$1.00  
Acreage: 105.87  
Grant: same conveyed to Lowicks by Sheriff Mackey,  
1928.

1942 Deed: 5 December 1942 Recorded 9 Dec. 1942  
Book 305, page 271  
Edgar H. Miller, of Cranford, N.J.,  
to

Elizabeth G. Miller, of same,  
Consideration: \$1.00  
Acreage: 105.87  
Grant: (share in ownership)

1965 Will: 18 December 1964  
Jonathan E. Miller  
Bequests: Mary E. Miller, widow, and Jonathan E.  
Miller III, executors; property to Empire Trust  
Company (7 Dec. 1964, Trust Agreement)

1970 Deed: 25 November 1970 Recorded 24 Dec. 1970  
Book 518, page 788  
Bank of New York (had merged with Empire Trust Company)  
to  
United States of America

4. Original plans and construction:

In 1766 Colonel Abraham Van Campen divided his land in Pahaquarry Township between two of his sons, Abraham (1736-1811) and Moses (1743-1818). Moses received Colonel Abraham's own house (HABS No. NJ - 430). The Deed to Abraham mentions "the House Lott," which appears to indicate that either Abraham had simply selected a site or had already erected a more or less temporary shelter or residence.

The datestone embedded in the existing stone foundation reveals that the dwelling was erected in 1768 by "A V K & M V K" -- Abraham, and either his brother Moses, or his first wife Maria.

The present superstructure, however, replaced that erected by Abraham at a later date. It is not known what happened to the original superstructure: some believe it to have been a stone building torn down after Abraham's death in 1811; others believe it to have been a frame structure which succumbed to fire ca. 1812. (Souder, addenda p. 11; Walters)

By his Will, probated in 1811, Abraham bequeathed "the house where I now live in" to his widow, upon whose death it was to pass to their son James. At what date James acquired the house is not yet known. He probably built the present superstructure, and if so, it dates before 1826. Although possible, it seems less likely that it was erected by Lewis Bary and Peter Kester between 1839 and 1845.



On October 11th, 1825, the first Town Meeting of Pahaquarry Township was "held at the house of James Van Campen, in Packaquarry....to elect members of the legislature to represent the...county..." (Snell, p. 698).

According to local legend, the house was an overnight stop for oxen teams en route to the copper mines to the south.

Dependencies: In his Will (1811), Abraham Van Campen bequeathed "half of my barn, barrack and outhouses" to his son Abraham. It is assumed that the other half became the property of James. The barn and outhouses may be the existing barn and wagon shed. The ice and spring houses which Mr. Miller remembers stood on the premises when he bought the farm.

5. Alterations and additions:

One of the owners during the Victorian period provided the structure with Victorian details such as exterior doors, gable bosses, and ribbed tin ceilings finished by tin cornices in the egg and dart motif.

Within eleven months, spanning 1942 and 1943, the Millers built the one-and-a-half-story wing on the south side of the dwelling. In the wing, which now contains the kitchen, dining room, porch, and two bedrooms, the floor boards came from the attic of the main structure, and the wainscot boards were taken from the barn. A door was cut in the southeast room to provide access to the addition.

The Millers replaced the floor in the northern half of the main story with new, wide boards. They were also responsible for installing plumbing, electricity, and heat (for which the chimney was altered). When the Millers acquired the house, there was a partition which divided the southern half of the main story into one large and one small room; they removed the partition, and cut a doorway from what used to be the small room, into the central hall. In addition they built a "window seat" for storage in the former small room, and equipped it with simple paneling and antique hardware (a similar storage space has been constructed in the hall on the second floor).

The Millers replaced the roof and built new braces for its support. (Above information from Edgar Miller, interviewed August 15, 1971.)

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Abraham Van Campen (1736-1811), farmer. Active in county government, he succeeded his father as Judge of Common Pleas, and served for several years in that capacity. He was an Elder in the Dutch Reformed Church, and, during the Revolutionary War, served as a member of the Sussex County Committee of Safety. He married (1) Maria Depue, (bpt. 13 Nov. 1748), and (2) Elizabeth Shoemaker (bpt. 19 October 1742) (Walters).

James Van Campen, (b. 17 November 1787, d. 17 August 1826) farmer. A participant in local government until his sudden death, James Van Campen served as: Town Collector (1826), Surveyor of Highways (1825), and Poundkeeper (1825). He was married to Cecilia Decker (1785-1874). (Snell p. 698).

C. Sources of Information

1. Primary and unpublished:

Map (ca. 1834-1836) of the Van Campen and Ribble lands, showing road system. From the Papers of Wells Van Campen. Now in the possession of the National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Miller, Edgar. Interview, 15 August 1971. Abraham Van Campen House, Pahaquarry Township, New Jersey.

Souder, Norman. "Historic Structures, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area." Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., July 1967.

Van Campen, Howard. "Van Campen Family in Pahaquarry." Typed ms. Monroe County Historical Society, Stroudsburg, Pa.

Walters, Elizabeth Dimmick (Mrs. Horace.) "Abraham Van Campen, Jr. (1736-1811)." Typed ms. Files of the National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

2. Secondary and published:

Snell, James P. History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey. Philadelphia: Evert & Peck, 1881.

Prepared by: Lynn Beebe Weaver  
Project Historian  
HABS  
August, 1971

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A General Statement

1. Architectural character: Large two-and-a-half-story residence with Greek Revival and Victorian details on exterior doors and windows.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: The two-and-a-half-story main house measures approximately 40' x 22'. The one-and-a-half-story addition on the south is 16' x 36'.
2. Foundations: Rubble stonework. The datestone in the foundation gives the date 1768, but the present superstructure was probably the second house on the foundations.
3. Wall Construction, finish and color: Wood frame, white clapboard siding, 6" exposure.
4. Structural system, framing: Limited interior inspection revealed large wood beams of an early date in the basement. The remainder of the structural system was not observed.
5. Porches: Stone stoop at west entrance with four steps. Covered porch on east elevation approximately 10' x 20' with supporting beveled columns. The floor is wood, as is the ceiling of beaded boards. The face of the wall of the house under the porch has decorative wood panels in between the two dutch doors from the porch. There is a modern screened porch on the west side of the addition.
6. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys on the main house, one at each end, and one on the east side of the addition.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The west entrance is in the Greek Revival style with small-paned sidelights. The soffit of the broken pediment over the door is decorated with the same fretwork as the door surrounds. There are twelve lights in each sidelight and seven in the transom window. The door and hardware appear to be original. There are two dutch doors on the east side of the house, under the porch.

- b. Windows and Shutters: The sash is six-over-six-light, double hung, with most of the early distorted glass still in place. The windows have pedimented heads.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eave and decorative molding on cornice.
- c. Dormers: There are two dormers on the addition. The one on the east side has three windows and a gable roof; on the west, a shed roof.

C. Description of Interior

The interior was not accessible to this researcher

D. Site

- 1. General setting and orientation: Wooded site overlooking man-made pond. Old Mine Road apparently once ran west of the house. It now passes on the east side.
- 2. Outbuildings: Barn and wagon shed-corn crib.

Prepared by: John M. McRae  
Project Supervisor  
HABS  
August, 1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. The historical data was written by Lynn Beebe Weaver, project historian in 1971. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George Eisenman in 1968 and 1971.